

## **Commerce Committee Public Hearing**

### **HB 5577 An Act Requiring The Evaluation Of The Costs and Benefits Of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming Within The State of Connecticut**

**March 10, 2016**

Good afternoon Senators and Representatives, I am here to oppose HB 5577. My name is Kayla Smith and I live in New London, CT. This August will mark my seventh year working at Mohegan Sun. After high school I immediately entered the workforce. Inspired by the stories of friends and family who have made good livings working at the casinos I applied for a job at the casino. I am very proud to have been hired by Mohegan Sun months out of high school; I began working for Mohegan Sun part time in the Valet and Arena Concessions departments.

Over the years, I was encouraged to work my way up the career ladder. It wasn't long before I was working full time in VIP Services. Currently, I work in Mohegan Sun's Guest Relations & Human Resources Department, I have the pleasure of working with our patron's every day to ensure their experience at our entertainment facility is world class.

Living in southeastern Connecticut there aren't many opportunities for employment which provide high school graduates with quality career opportunities and a clear pathway to a sustainable middle class lifestyle. My job at Mohegan Sun is important to me and affords me many benefits I would not be able to find locally.

I know what businesses do when new competition opens, they must respond. We are here today to ask you not to further delay the response to increasing competition. If you, the Connecticut Legislature and the State Government do not allow the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes respond to completion as they would like I fear the consequences.

I worry that unchecked competition will negatively impact Mohegan Sun's success and if I am laid off that I will not be able to find a similar job with the level of pay and benefits I currently receive. While local businesses have been laying off workers or not hiring, Mohegan Sun not only hired me, they provided me with promotions over the past seven years. I enjoy and appreciate my job at Mohegan Sun and hope that their success will continue to be my success. I urge you to work with Mohegan Sun to ensure my job and jobs of thousands of others like me are still here 4 years from now.

Thank you,

Kayla Smith  
Guest Relations Specialist  
Mohegan Sun